

In the event the Office indicates the allowance of the subject matter of less and all of the pending claims and Applicant thereafter cancels those claims that are not allowed to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application to seek patentability of the canceled claims.

Applicant filed a Notice of Appeal on February 1, 2007, and his Appeal Brief is due April 1, 2007. If Applicant and the Examiner reach agreement on the content of the present application, it will be unnecessary for Applicant to submit the Appeal Brief. If Applicant and the Examiner are unable to reach agreement, Applicant will need to prepare and submit an Appeal Brief in approximately three weeks (assuming no extension of time). Accordingly, Applicant would appreciate a response to this communication as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Thompson Coburn LLP

By: 

Alan H. Norman, Reg. 32,285
One US Bank Plaza
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
Telephone: (314) 552-6000
Fax: 314-552-7000